(c) whether corruption in power sector has also become rampant from top to bottom; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The Electricity Laws (Amendment) Act, 1998 (Act No. 22 of 1998) recognizes transmission as a separate activity and provides for grant of transmission license to any person. Power Grid Corporation of India Limited as the Central Transmission Utility, has identified two proposed transmission lines namely 400 KV D/C Madurai—Trivandrum Line and 400 KV S/C Meramundali—Jeypore Line for private sector participation. The decisions in respect of transmission and distribution systems in the States sector have to be taken by the appropriate agencies in the States.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) However, a strong vigilance machinery exists in each public sector undertaking and other establishments under the Ministry of Power, to detect and deal with cases of corruption and suitable disciplinary action is taken wherever necessary.

Losses of SEBs

1469. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that income of various State Electricity Boards in the country is less in comparison to their capital investment and that assessment is around 18 percent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have made any assessment of loss being suffered by the State Electricity Boards; and

(d) if so, the amount of annual loss and the total subsidy being given by Government under the head of power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) As per 1997-98 accounts of the 16* State Electricity Boards (SEBs) the fixed capital assets of SEBs at the beginning of the year 1997-98 were Rs. 48,193.72 crores. As against this, the revenue of these SEBs amounts to Rs. 50962.75 crores (including Electricity Duty) which is about 105% of the fixed capital assets of SEBs. The profit of these SEBs during the financial year 1997-98 worked out to Rs. 1093.42 crores after taking into the account of subsidy of Rs. 9,461.31 crores as provided by the respective State Governments. Without subsidy the loss amounts to Rs. 8,367.89 crores which is about 17.36% of their capital.

*Accounts of three SEBs are unaudited.

Power producing units in private sector

†1470. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards news-item appearing in daily Business Standard dated 19 October, 1999 captioned, Private Power Project delayed by Government policy;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that till date there is shortage of power producing units in private sector inspite of the fact that the private sector was made partner in power production about eight years back; and

(c) if not, the total number of approved power production units and how many have started producing power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise. However, till date, a total of 56 private sector power projects with envisaged capacity of around 28,862 MW, have been accorded Techno-Economic clearance (TEC) by the Central Electricity Authority. As per available information, 22 private sector power projects (including those which do not require TEC of CEA).

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.